




**THE KENNEDY CENTER, INC.**  
**Celebrating the Potential of All People**

Martin D. Schwartz  
PRESIDENT & CEO

March 3, 2009

To: **LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**

From: Martin Schwartz, President/CEO, The Kennedy Center, Inc. 

Re: Raised H.B. No. 6502 **AN ACT CONCERNING THE STANDARD  
WAGE FOR CERTAIN CONNECTICUT WORKERS**

The Kennedy Center is a community provider that provides vocational services to approximately 1500 individuals with cognitive disabilities on an annual basis in the greater Bridgeport area. The Kennedy Center has two state standard wage contracts, which employ people with disabilities. It is from this perspective that we respectfully submit our comments on Raised Bill No. 6502.

Making opportunities available for people with disabilities at standard wages was a part of previous legislation passed unanimously by the legislature in 2006 as Public Act 06-129 – An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Disabled and Disadvantaged Employment Security Policy Group.

We do not oppose H.B. 6502 except as it may contain language that contradicts a portion of Public Act 06-126, which allows community providers to seek standard wage contracts of less than four FTEs without worker retention requirements [Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-82, sections (o) and (p)]. The worker retention language in Raised Bill 6502 could eliminate that protection. We would like to see language on the retention of workers that acknowledges these sections. We understand that the Connecticut Community Providers Association is preparing such language for consideration.

Accredited  
by

